

**Question for written answer E-006070/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Freedom of expression, assembly and association for LGBT people in Russia

While we are well aware of the increased political and security tensions between Russia and the EU, respect for human rights should not be overlooked.

We are deeply concerned by the fact that the Russian authorities have recently further restricted freedom of expression, assembly and association through the sharpening of the Federal Law on NGOs and the 'Foreign Agents' law, in February 2014 and June 2014 respectively. Meanwhile, the 'anti-propaganda' law remains in full force and a bill seeking to terminate the parental rights of same-sex couples raising children was withdrawn for revision in October 2013, but may be re-tabled at any moment.

1. In what terms were the rights of LGBT persons discussed at the EU-Russia summit in January 2014?
2. Now that visa negotiations with Russia have been halted in light of the events in Ukraine, and further sanctions are being discussed after the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, how is the Commission maintaining pressure on Russia to repeal the discriminatory laws and practices, and what can it do to prevent future negative developments?